

December 28, 2025

Lessons and Carols Service



The Christmas Sequel

LIVING HOPE
LUTHERAN CHURCH

welcome to
WORSHIP

We're so glad you decided to worship with us today. You could have chosen to be anywhere this morning, and you chose to spend your time with Living Hope. Thank you! It's an honor to have you here and to have the chance to fill you with hope. Welcome to Living Hope.

CURRENT SERIES INFO

Today's Focus: Lessons and Carols—The Christmas Sequel

When we talk about the sequel to Christmas it might seem like we're referring to the visit of the magi and it's true, that could be considered the sequel to Christmas. But we're going to look just beyond that event to what happens immediately next.

The visit of the magi is memorialized in our nativity sets and spoken in the same breath as the birth of Jesus. But the gospel account from Matthew we're looking at today is not one that we want to associate with Christmas. It's dark, it's violent, it's tragic, and it doesn't seem to fit with our picture of Christmas joy. But it's a snapshot of the reality of the world that Christ was born into for us. This is exactly the death and destruction and evil that Jesus came to address with his own death and suffering at the cross.

And we are comforted to know that we have a God who is distressed in our distress and comes to redeem us and carry us. We are comforted to know that we have a God who has adopted us into his own family as heirs of all that is his. The Christmas sequel has so much to tell us about what God has done for us—to save us from the darkness.



ABOUT LIVING HOPE

Living Hope Lutheran Church is a brand new mission church on Chattanooga's east side. We are funded by and a member of the Wisconsin Evangelical Lutheran Synod, a collection of over 1,300 churches across the United States and Canada.

Living Hope succeeds in its mission when hope forever in Jesus brings hope for every day in life.

For more on our mission, background, and beliefs just visit our website: livinghopechatt.com

ABOUT WORSHIP

Worship at Living Hope is designed to fill you with hope! The message you hear at Living Hope will center you on your Savior, Jesus, and what he's done for you. Worship isn't just about filling up God with praise. Worship is all about *God filling you* with good news!

We follow a basic order of service, called the liturgy. In the message, in specially selected Scripture readings, and in carefully crafted songs, prayers, and creeds, the liturgy proclaims the good news (gospel) about Jesus from start to finish. Gospel-centered worship is also designed to include participation of those in attendance.

- Feel free to get up to use restrooms **at any time** during the service.
- **Restrooms** are located around the corner to your right.
- A **nursery** is available for small children out the left-hand side of the worship space. Just look for the **Kid's Zone sign** just past the info corner by the main entrance. Feel free to use that space during worship. The service will be livestreamed into the room.
- **Kid activity bags** are available on a table by the entrance to the sanctuary.
- Please fill out a **connection card**. It's our best way to stay in touch with you and thank you for joining us today! You'll find connection cards on the table at the entrance.
- Everything you need to enjoy today's worship will be found in this Worship Folder. **Songs** will also be found on the screen.

Show friends where you are—check in!



/livinghopechatt

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Now Sing We, Now Rejoice

CW 363



1 Now sing we, now re - joice, now raise to heav'n our voice;
 2 Come from on high to me; I can - not rise to thee.
 3 Now through his Son doth shine the Fa - ther's grace di - vine.
 4 Oh, where shall joy be found? Where but on heav'n - ly ground,



he from whom joy stream - eth poor in a man - ger lies;
 Cheer my wea - ried spir - it, O pure and ho - ly Child;
 Death was reign - ing o'er us through sin and van - i - ty
 where the an - gels sing - ing with all his saints u - nite,



not so bright - ly beam - eth the sun in yon - der skies.
 thro' thy grace and mer - it, blest Je - sus, Lord most mild,
 till he o - pened for us a bright e - ter - ni - ty.
 sweet - est prais - es bring - ing in heav'n - ly joy and light.



Thou my Sav - ior art!	Thou my Sav - ior art!
draw me un - to thee!	Draw me un - to thee!
May we praise him there!	May we praise him there!
Oh, that we were there!	Oh, that we were there!

Text: Latin and German, 14th cent.; tr. Arthur T. Russell, 1806–1874, alt.

Tune: German, 14th cent., alt.

Text and tune: Public domain

The name of the Triune God and sign of the cross remind worshipers of their baptisms.

Christmas Gathering Rite

Come, let us praise the Father who sent his Son to be our Savior. Come, let us praise the Spirit who gives us hope and faith in the Son's love for us. Come, let us welcome the Son of God, who draws near to us as the Son of Mary.

The grace of our Lord (+) Jesus Christ and the love of God and the fellowship of the Holy Spirit be with you.

And also with you.

In every worship service we confess our sins then cling to the forgiveness that Jesus gives us. Confession is called the "heartbeat of the Christian."

Confession & Absolution

That which was from the beginning, which we have heard, which we have seen with our eyes, which we have looked at and our hands have touched—this we proclaim concerning the Word of life. The life appeared. *1 John 1:1-2a*

Welcome to our world, dear Savior.

This is the message we have heard from him and declare to you: God is light; in him there is no darkness at all. If we claim to be without sin, we deceive ourselves and the truth is not in us. If we confess our sins, he is faithful and just and will forgive us our sins and purify us from all unrighteousness. *1 John 1:15,8-9*

We have sinned, dear Son of God.

"But you, Bethlehem Ephrathah, though you are small among the clans of Judah, out of you will come for me one who will be ruler over Israel, whose origins are from of old, from ancient times."

Therefore Israel will be abandoned until the time when she who is in labor bears a son, and the rest of his brothers return to join the Israelites.

He will stand and shepherd his flock in the strength of the Lord, in the majesty of the name of the Lord his God.

And they will live securely, for then his greatness
will reach to the ends of the earth.

And he will be our peace.

Micah 5:2-5a

Welcome to our world, dear Peace.

For the grace of God has appeared that offers salvation to all people. It teaches us to say “No” to ungodliness and worldly passions, and to live self-controlled, upright and godly lives in this present age, while we wait for the blessed hope—the appearing of the glory of our great God and Savior, Jesus Christ, who gave himself for us to redeem us from all wickedness and to purify for himself a people that are his very own, eager to do what is good.

Titus 2:11-14

Welcome to our world, dear Jesus.

Let All Together Praise Our God

CW 355 sts. 1, 4, 6



1 Let all to - geth - er praise our God be - fore his
4 He un - der - takes a great ex - change, puts on our
6 For us he o - pens wide the door of par - a -



high - est throne; to - day he o - pens heav'n a - gain and
hu - man frame, and in re - turn gives us his realm, his
dise to - day. The an - gel guards the gate no more; to



gives us his own Son, and gives us his own Son.
glo - ry, and his name, his glo - ry, and his name.
God our thanks we pay, to God our thanks we pay.

Text: Nicolaus Herman, c. 1480-1561, abr.; (sts. 1, 6): tr. August Crull, 1845-1923, sts. 1-3,5,6, alt.; (st. 4): tr. F. Samuel Janzow, 1913-2001, st. 4
Tune: Nicolaus Herman, c. 1480-1561
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Prayer of the Day

Almighty God, in mercy you sent your one and only Son to take upon himself our human nature. By his gracious coming, deliver us from the corruption of our sin, and transform us into the likeness of his glory; through your Son, Jesus Christ our Lord, who lives and reigns with you and the Holy Spirit, one God, now and forever. **Amen.**

Children's Message

Children are invited to come forward into the front for the children's message. They will be given a special message designed just for them that ties in with the sermon.

First Lesson—The Original Grinch

Matthew 2:13-23

¹³When they had gone, an angel of the Lord appeared to Joseph in a dream. "Get up," he said, "take the child and his mother and escape to Egypt. Stay there until I tell you, for Herod is going to search for the child to kill him."

¹⁴So he got up, took the child and his mother during the night and left for Egypt, ¹⁵where he stayed until the death of Herod. And so was fulfilled what the Lord had said through the prophet: "Out of Egypt I called my son."

¹⁶When Herod realized that he had been outwitted by the Magi, he was furious, and he gave orders to kill all the boys in Bethlehem and its vicinity who were two years old and under, in accordance with the time he had learned from the Magi.

¹⁷Then what was said through the prophet Jeremiah was fulfilled:

¹⁸“A voice is heard in Ramah,
weeping and great mourning,
Rachel weeping for her children
and refusing to be comforted,
because they are no more.”

¹⁹After Herod died, an angel of the Lord appeared in a dream to Joseph in Egypt
²⁰and said, “Get up, take the child and his mother and go to the land of Israel, for those who were trying to take the child’s life are dead.”

²¹So he got up, took the child and his mother and went to the land of Israel.

²²But when he heard that Archelaus was reigning in Judea in place of his father Herod, he was afraid to go there. Having been warned in a dream, he withdrew to the district of Galilee, ²³and he went and lived in a town called Nazareth. So was fulfilled what was said through the prophets, that he would be called a Nazarene.

By All Your Saints Still Striving

CW 892 sts. 1, 9, 3



1 By all your saints still striv - ing, for all your saints at rest,
2 Praise for your in - fant mar - tyrs, whom your mys - te - rious love
3 Then let us praise the Fa - ther and wor - ship God the Son



your ho - ly name, O Je - sus, for - ev - er - more be blessed.
called ear - ly from life's con - flicts to share your peace a - bove.
and sing to God the Spir - it, e - ter - nal Three in One,



You rose, our King vic - to - rious, that they might wear the crown
O Ra - chel, cease your weep - ing; they rest from earth - ly cares.
till all the ran-somed num - ber who stand be - fore the throne



and ev - er shine in splen - dor re - flect - ed from your throne.
Lord, grant us crowns as bril - liant and faith as sure as theirs.
as - cribe all pow'r and glo - ry and praise to God a - lone.

Text: Horatio Bolton Nelson, 1823–1913, alt.

Tune: Finnish

Text and tune: Public domain

Second Lesson—Distressed By Our Distress

Isaiah 63:7–9

⁷I will tell of the kindnesses of the LORD,
the deeds for which he is to be praised,
according to all the LORD has done for us—
yes, the many good things
he has done for Israel,
according to his compassion and many kindnesses.

⁸He said, “Surely they are my people,
children who will be true to me”;
and so he became their Savior.

⁹In all their distress he too was distressed,
and the angel of his presence saved them.
In his love and mercy he redeemed them;
he lifted them up and carried them
all the days of old.

Love Has Come

CW 364



1 Love has come, a light in the dark - ness! Love shines forth in the
 2 Love is born! Come share in the won - der. Love is God now a -
 3 Love has come and nev - er will leave us! Love is life ev - er -



Beth - le - hem skies. See, all heav - en has come to pro - claim it;
 sleep in the hay. See the glow in the eyes of his moth - er;
 last - ing and free. Love is Je - sus with - in and a - mong us.



hear how their song of joy a - ris - es: Love! Love! Born un - to
 what is the name her heart is say - ing? Love! Love! Love is the
 Love is the peace our hearts are seek - ing. Love! Love! Love is the



you, a Sav - ior! Love! Love! Glo - ry to God on high!
 name she whis - pers. Love! Love! Je - sus, Im - man - u - el.
 gift of Christ - mas. Love! Love! Praise to you, God on high!

Text: Ken Bible, b. 1950

Tune: F. Seguin, Recueil de noëls composés en langue provençale, 1856

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Tune: Public domain

Third Lesson—Adopted Child and Heir

Galatians 4:4–7

⁴But when the set time had fully come, God sent his Son, born of a woman, born under the law, ⁵to redeem those under the law, that we might receive adoption to sonship. ⁶Because you are his sons, God sent the Spirit of his Son into our hearts, the Spirit who calls out, “Abba, Father.” ⁷So you are no longer a slave, but God’s child; and since you are his child, God has made you also an heir.

Gentle Mary Laid Her Child

CW'93 #56



1 Gen - tle Mar - y laid her child Low - ly in a man - ger;
2 An - gels sang a - bout his birth; Wise men sought and found him.
3 Gen - tle Mar - y laid her child Low - ly in a man - ger;



There he lay, the un - de - filed, To the world a stran - ger.
Heav-en's star shone bright - ly forth, Glo - ry all a - round them.
He is still the un - de - filed, But no more a stran - ger.



Such a babe in such a place— Can he be the Sav - ior?
Shep-herds saw the won-drous sight, Heard the an - gels sing - ing.
Son of God, of hum - ble birth, Beau - ti - ful the sto - ry;



Ask the saved of all the race Who have found his fa - vor.
All the plains were lit that night; All the hills were ring - ing.
Praise his name in all the earth, Hail the King of glo - ry!

Text: Joseph S. Cook, 1859–1933.

Tune: TEMPUS ADEST FLORIDUM (76 76 D) *Piae Cantiones Ecclesiasticae*, Griefswald, 1582.

Offering

We collect offerings out of thanks for what God has done for us so that we can support gospel work here and around the world. You can give using the envelope provided in your worship folder. You'll also find instructions there for how to give online if you'd prefer. Thank you for supporting our gospel ministry! If you are a guest with us don't feel obligated to contribute. This service is our free gift to you!

New Member Welcome

Praying the prayer of the church is a time when we can pray for people in all kinds of circumstances and for the work of God's church on earth.

Prayer of the Church

Eternal Father, we give you thanks and praise on this holy day for sending your one and only Son to share our humanity, carry our guilt, and become for us the perfect Lamb who takes away the sin of the world.

Lord, we praise you.

Keep our faith in your Son alive and strong. Nourish us with your Word and sacraments and by your Holy Spirit give us strength to overcome Satan's power and empty promises. Help us to withstand the temptations the world and our sinful nature put on our path.

Give us faith and courage.

We pray for our city and countryside, for our neighborhoods and subdivisions, and for all who live and work and find delight here. Give to the leaders of government wisdom to make and uphold laws that promote the good of society. Grant our nation peace, health, and prosperity that we may have the opportunity and resources to spread the good news to all people.

Govern and prosper your people.

Fill us with kindness and arouse us to do good to all people, especially those who are less fortunate than we. Bring your healing to those who are sick or diseased in body or mind and comfort those who are mourning the death of someone they

love. We especially pray for brothers and sisters who are setting aside their celebration today to care for the sick and stand at the side of the dying.

Sustain those who endure the troubles of life.

Be a source of strength to all your people and fill them with your power and peace. If any are among us today who have lost the true meaning of this festival, let them rediscover the joy that comes from Christ alone.

Let your peace reign in the hearts of all.

As you sent your Son to bring peace to all people on earth, so we pray for all people, those known and those unknown to us.

We pray through Jesus Christ our Lord. Amen.

The Lord's Prayer

Our Father in heaven,

hallowed be your name,

your kingdom come,

your will be done on earth as in heaven.

Give us today our daily bread.

Forgive us our sins,

as we forgive those who sin against us.

Lead us not into temptation,

but deliver us from evil.

For the kingdom, the power, and the glory are yours now and forever.

Amen.

When Jesus' disciples asked him how to pray he gave them the words of this prayer. (Matt. 6:9-13 and Luke 11:2-4) Since Jesus advises we pray this way, we say "The Lord's Prayer" every Sunday.

To our worship guests seeking an altar at which to commune: Since the Lord's Supper is an expression of outward unity in the faith as well as an inner union with Christ, we ask that those who are not communicant members of our fellowship please schedule a meeting with the pastor before coming to the Lord's Table. We ask this in loving obedience to the Scriptures and not in judgment of anyone's faith, sincerity or standing before God. See the announcement about our communion practice at the back of this worship folder for more info as well.

Holy Communion

The Lord be with you.

And also with you.

Lift up your hearts.

We lift them up to the Lord.

Let us give thanks to the Lord our God.

It is right to give him thanks and praise.

It is truly good and right that we should at all times and in all places give you thanks, O Lord, holy Father, almighty and everlasting God, through Jesus Christ our Lord, by whose wonderful and mysterious birth you have opened our eyes to the glory of your grace and renewed in our hearts the fervor of your love.

Therefore, with all the saints on earth and hosts of heaven, we praise your holy name and join their glorious song:

Holy, Holy, Holy

CW 944



Ho - ly, ho - ly, ho - ly Lord, God of pow'rand might,



ho - ly, ho - ly, ho - ly Lord, God of pow'r and might,



heav - en and earth are full, full of your glo - ry.



Ho - san - na in the high - est, ho - san - na in the high - est.



Bless - ed is he who comes in the name of the Lord.



Ho - san - na in the high - est, ho - san - na in the high - est.

Tune: Deutsche Messe, Franz Schubert, 1797–1828; adapt. Richard Proulx, 1937–2010

Text: Public domain

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Words of Institution

The peace of the Lord be with you always.

Amen.

As you wait to go up to the table take some moments to examine your heart.

Acknowledge sin. Trust God's forgiveness through Christ. Recognize the real presence of Jesus' body and blood together with the bread and wine. (1 Corinthians 11:27-29)

Distribution

Personal Prayer: Lord Jesus, with joy and gratitude I now come to your table to receive the precious food of your life-giving body and blood. May it strengthen me to remain in you as you remain in me, so that I bear much fruit in devoted service to you and in acts of kindness to others. Amen.

Distribution anthem—The Birthday of a King

Prayer

Thank you, dear Savior, for nourishing my faith with the Sacrament of your body and blood. Lift my heart with your forgiveness, renew my confidence in your grace, empower my love for others, and lead me to long for the eternal banquet of heaven.

Blessing

May he who by his incarnation gathered things earthly and heavenly into one, fill us with such joy that comes with the knowledge of the forgiveness of sins and the hope of eternal life.

And the blessing of God Almighty

—the Father, the Son, and the Holy Spirit—

Be upon you and remain with you always.

Amen.

Hark! The Herald Angels Sing

CW 350



- 1 Hark! The her - ald an - gels sing, “Glo - ry to the new - born King;
- 2 Christ, by high - est heav’n a - dored, Christ, the ev - er - last - ing Lord,
- 3 Hail, the heav’n - ly Prince of Peace! Hail, the Sun of Right-eous-ness!



peace on earth and mer - cy mild, God and sin - ners rec - on - ciled!”
late in time be - hold him come, off-spring of a vir-gin’s womb.
Light and life to all he brings, ris’n with heal - ing in his wings.



Joy - ful, all ye na - tions rise, join the tri - umph of the skies;
Veiled in flesh the God-head see, hail th' in - car - nate De - i - ty!
Mild he lays his glo - ry by, born that man no more may die,



with th' an - gel - ic host pro - claim, "Christ is born in Beth - le - hem!"
Pleased as man with man to dwell, Je - sus, our Im - man - u - el!
born to raise the sons of earth, born to give them sec - ond birth.



Hark! The her - ald an - gels sing, "Glo - ry to the new-born King!"

Text: Charles Wesley, 1707–1788, alt.

Tune: Felix Mendelssohn, 1809–1847

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ANNOUNCEMENTS

Upcoming Services

New sermon series: Know Jesus, Know Joy

Epiphany is the season of revelation—when God pulls back the curtain and shows us who Jesus truly is. From the worship of the Magi to the waters of baptism and the first signs of glory, Jesus is made known not just as a teacher, but as the Savior of the world. This series invites us to move beyond familiarity to true knowing. As we encounter Jesus in Scripture, worship, and daily life, we discover a joy that is deeper than happiness and stronger than circumstances. When Christ is revealed, joy is renewed. Because to know Jesus is to know joy.

Thank you to today's musicians and vocalists!

Emily Knutson; piano



Sunday School and Bible Study—After worship at 11:30

Sunday School for children and Sunday Study will take place after worship today. The adults are doing a study on the book of Judges called Broken Saviors as we take a deep dive into a very rich and messy book of the Bible full of applications for us today.

Children will meet with their appropriate age groups and are taught by a team of teachers with full background checks.

Living Hope Small Groups

Find more information on the small groups bulletin board in the lobby about available groups to get involved with.

- Theology on Tap and Women's Group — (ON BREAK)
- Men's Group—Mondays every other week at 7am. (next meeting Mon. Jan 5)
- Hands of Hope—every other Thursday at 10am. (next meeting on Jan 2 [Friday])

Connection Envelopes

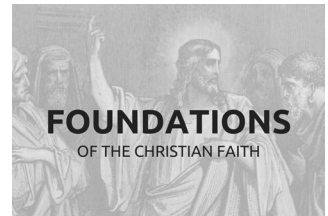
We'd love to get your valuable feedback on our worship service today. If this is your first time at Living Hope we also want the opportunity to give you a gift to say "thanks for being our guest!" You can place your connection envelopes in the offering plate as it passes or in the basket located at the entrance of the sanctuary. Also feel free to just hand it to pastor.

Foundations Bible Study

If you're interested in membership here at Living Hope, Foundations is our "next step" class, but even if you're not interested in membership, you'll find it to be a good overview of what God has to say to you in his Word. If you're interested in attending the course just check the box on your connection envelope that says "I'd like to attend a membership class" in order to jump into a new group class or individual class. There are both in-person or online classes available!

In person classes are available on Saturdays at 11:00am at church.

Online classes are available on Thursdays at 7:30pm. Message pastor for a class link.



Communion at Living Hope

Communion is important to us at Living Hope and we seek to honor the biblical view of *close communion*. Before coming up for communion, all adults should ask themselves these questions:

1. Do you confess your sins and seek to turn away from the sins you confessed?
2. Do you recognize that Jesus' sacrifice on the cross is the only way sin is forgiven?
3. Do you recognize that in the Sacrament you receive Jesus' true body and true blood along with the bread and the wine? (*1 Corinthians 11:27-29 + 1 Corinthians 10:15-17*)
4. Do you believe that the Bible *IS* God's inspired Word and does not just contain some truths of God?
5. Do you believe that Living Hope Lutheran Church teaches only the truth of God based on His inspired Word? (A summary of these teachings is taught in the *Foundations* course.)

Members' Minute

Birthday Blessings:

Ted Bunting 12/30

Tyler Cundiff 12/31

Service Teams — This week

Sunday Setup Team—Thom
Snack Provider—Appugliese, Bogue, Bunting
Ushers—Gorman, Mayer
Acolyte—Natalie Melso

Service Teams — Next week Jan 4th

Sunday Setup Team—Frizzell, Turman
Snack Provider—Bassett, Dyer
Ushers—Open
Acolyte—Ben Schulz



LIVING HOPE
LUTHERAN CHURCH

HOPE FOR EVERYDAY

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